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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

Consumer Price Index, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater – November 2020

Area prices up 3.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater rose 0.1 percent from September to November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent since September. The food index rose 0.1 percent over the bi-monthly period, while the energy index declined 3.6 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U increased 3.2 percent from November 2019 to November 2020. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.5 percent over the past 12 months, while the food index jumped 7.5 percent. In contrast, the energy index fell 10.3 percent over the past year. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

The food index rose 0.1 percent from September to November, reflecting a 0.5-percent increase in the food away from home index. The food at home index edged down 0.2 percent over the bi-monthly period.

The food index advanced 7.5 percent for the 12 months ending in November, led by a 11.0-percent jump in the food at home index. The food way from home index also increased over the past year, up 3.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 3.6 percent from September to November, reflecting an 8.0-percent drop in the gasoline index. The utility (piped) gas service index declined 2.8 percent over the bi-monthly period, while the electricity index was unchanged.

The energy index fell 10.3 percent for the 12 months ending in November, led by a 19.3-percent fall in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes also declined over the past year, down 2.1 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent from September to November. Notable indexes that increased since September include new vehicles (3.9 percent), shelter (0.4 percent), and medical care (0.8 percent). Recreation (-3.5 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-7.4 percent) were among the indexes to decline over the bi-monthly period.

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.5 percent for the 12 months ending in November. Increases in the shelter (4.4 percent) and medical care (7.8 percent) indexes contributed to the over-the-year increase.

Table A. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.8		-1.1	0.4	0.7	3.8
March	0.6		1.9	1.7	0.2	2.1
May.....	0.4		0.9	2.2	-0.3	0.9
July	0.3		0.1	2.1	1.0	1.8
September.....	0.6		-0.1	1.5	1.4	3.3
November.....	-0.3	2.3	0.2	2.0	0.1	3.2

The Consumer Price Index for December 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on November 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in November was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	236.804	-	236.989	3.2	0.1	-
Food and beverages	248.363	-	248.597	7.1	0.1	-
Food	249.106	-	249.350	7.5	0.1	-
Food at home	256.648	256.659	256.112	11.0	-0.2	-0.2
Cereals and bakery products	276.121	-	280.904	8.2	1.7	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	241.393	-	242.128	12.6	0.3	-
Dairy and related products	242.900	-	243.702	14.4	0.3	-
Fruits and vegetables	354.662	-	364.367	13.2	2.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	196.672	-	190.815	9.2	-3.0	-
Other food at home	213.503	-	208.204	8.8	-2.5	-
Food away from home.....	239.002	-	240.170	3.3	0.5	-
Alcoholic beverages	223.699	-	223.801	3.0	0.0	-
Housing	243.393	-	244.368	4.0	0.4	-
Shelter	280.559	280.688	281.644	4.4	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence	287.344	285.939	287.705	4.4	0.1	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	294.288	295.208	295.736	4.2	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	294.288	295.208	295.736	4.2	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	209.619	-	211.618	-0.2	1.0	-
Household energy	162.906	162.879	162.748	-2.5	-0.1	-0.1
Energy Services	160.683	160.683	160.553	-2.4	-0.1	-0.1
Electricity	158.191	158.191	158.191	-2.1	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	219.980	219.980	213.903	-11.1	-2.8	-2.8
Household furnishings and operations	129.339	-	129.271	5.4	-0.1	-
Apparel	124.111	-	125.149	-6.1	0.8	-
Transportation	197.744	-	198.284	-1.4	0.3	-
Private transportation	203.888	-	202.546	-1.1	-0.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(1).....	109.112	-	113.283	5.6	3.8	-
New vehicles	119.559	-	124.257	2.1	3.9	-
Used cars and trucks.....	146.380	-	145.378	10.1	-0.7	-
Motor fuel	226.860	224.361	209.312	-19.0	-7.7	-6.7
Gasoline (all types).....	221.808	219.348	204.146	-19.3	-8.0	-6.9
Unleaded regular(2)	213.206	210.129	194.868	-20.5	-8.6	-7.3
Unleaded midgrade(2)(3)	228.086	229.004	217.403	-7.0	-4.7	-5.1
Unleaded premium(2).....	258.803	261.667	249.155	-10.8	-3.7	-4.8
Motor vehicle insurance	632.004	-	585.396	0.7	-7.4	-
Medical Care	434.878	-	438.491	7.8	0.8	-
Recreation(1).....	127.247	-	122.744	-0.4	-3.5	-
Education and communication(1).....	134.339	-	133.054	-0.4	-1.0	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care	641.452	-	644.253	2.2	0.4	-
Other goods and services	303.976	-	303.175	-0.6	-0.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	236.804	-	236.989	3.2	0.1	-
Commodities	175.706	-	175.783	2.2	0.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	139.670	-	139.677	-1.4	0.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.331	-	188.866	-6.2	-1.3	-
Durables	92.328	-	93.503	3.7	1.3	-
Services.....	290.888	-	291.163	3.6	0.1	-
Special aggregate indexes						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
All items less medical care	226.245	-	226.263	2.7	0.0	-
All items less shelter.....	218.555	-	218.304	2.4	-0.1	-
Commodities less food	143.553	-	143.563	-1.2	0.0	-
Nondurables	221.291	-	220.310	1.6	-0.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	194.118	-	191.892	-5.3	-1.1	-
Services less rent of shelter	298.772	-	297.896	2.6	-0.3	-
Services less medical care services.....	275.037	-	275.295	3.0	0.1	-
Energy	188.365	187.403	181.634	-10.3	-3.6	-3.1
All items less energy	240.495	-	241.235	4.1	0.3	-
All items less food and energy	239.362	-	240.181	3.5	0.3	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.